DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Guanyao Cheng on September 24, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

Please cancel 1, 2 and 4 – 8. (Claims 1 – 24, 31 and 38 – 50 are now canceled).

Please amend claims 25, 32 and 37 as follow:

25. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access by an

application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:

a first object stored in the medium to provide a first group of services related to

interacting with a hierarchical namespace;

a second object stored in the medium to provide a second group of services

related to associating information with the first object;

a third object stored in the medium to provide a third group of services related to

describing attributes of the second object, wherein the third group of services include a

schema that is inheritable by a child object that provides a group of services related to describing attributes of an object related to the child object;

wherein the first object is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR) and includes a reference to a parent object in the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR) that enables traversal of the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR) and a path that uniquely specifies the first object's location in the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR), and wherein the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR) represents, using an application program interface (API), a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint;

wherein each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR); and

wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes.

32. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of claim 25, further comprising: a fifth object to provide a fifth set of services related to searching the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR).

37. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of claim 25, further comprising: a sixth object to provide a sixth group of services related to configuring the ~~VCR~~ virtual content repository (VCR).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25 – 30 and 32 – 37 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest applicant's claims as amended; wherein, the first object is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR) and includes a reference to a parent object in the <u>virtual content repository (VCR)</u> that enables traversal of the <u>virtual content repository (VCR)</u> and each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the <u>virtual content repository (VCR)</u>; and wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shahid Al Alam whose telephone number is (571) 272-4030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shahid Al Alam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162

September 28, 2008